

TAB A

CBS News 0800 Tuesday, 8 April 1958

From Paris

CPYRGHT

American Air Force units are being secretly flown to Europe to reinforce areas which are the responsibility of the British. CBS News has learned exclusively that for the past year, squadrons of American planes have been brought over in an operation called "Mobile Delta." The pilots and planes are officially listed as being on training flights, but in reality they are put on an operational basis almost as soon as they land, and most of them are given targets in the British area of responsibility. NATO military planners are reported to be worried about internal politics in Britain damaging the ability of the British Air Force to make an all-out effort in case of trouble. They are also concerned about another incident such as Suez, which could result in British planes being pulled out of the NATO line, thus creating a dangerous hole in our defenses. And in addition, there is evidence that, because of British military economies, its air units assigned to NATO are no longer able to give fullest coverage to Russian targets. NATO strategy calls for triple coverage of priority targets. The British who are responsible for the northern third of our air defense line, are able to give only double and sometimes single coverage. And so "Mobile Delta" was put into effect. American Air Force planes, usually two squadrons at a time, are flown over to Europe non-stop, landing at British or German bases. The pilots are listed as being on a two month training flight in order to avoid embarrassing diplomatic repercussions. In addition, the United States could not openly reinforce its Air Force strength in Europe without questions being asked in Congress. Now back to CBS News in New York.

TAB B

April 7, 1958

(EXCERPT)

Morgan Beatty, News of the World, at 7:30 p.m. over WRC (Washington) and the NBC Network:

BEATTY: "Now more news by direct report. Hair-trigger caution in a hair-trigger American military guard. To Peter Hackes, our Pentagon correspondent."

HACKES: "At this moment over the Black Sea, perhaps headed toward Russia, flies a 700-mile-an-hour B-52 bomber, loaded with live hydrogen bombs. The pilot took off a short time ago from a base in North Africa. Presumably it's a training mission, one of thousands of such flights each week. Occasionally one of these flights becomes a real bomb run. Unidentified objects cross a U. S. radar screen, our planes are on the way instantly. We check later.

"If the objects turn out to be friendly, how do we stop the planes? A plan called Sail Safe. The United Press tonight gets permission to make the first report on Sail Safe, a plan under which you fly towards your target for a certain fixed number of miles, then if you don't get secret orders to go on to the target, you automatically turn back, a safety factor which allows our planes to be on the way, ready to bomb specific targets before enemy planes reach the U. S. One Pentagon source calls this a deterrent force in being, not in action. You can give a show of retaliatory force with SAC bombers, he explained, and still recall them. If you sent missiles, chances are World War III would begin."

TRANSMITTAL SLIP		DATE 16 April 1958	
TO: Mr. Bissell			
ROOM NO.	BUILDING		
REMARKS:			
FROM: Stanley J. Grogan, Asst. to the DCI			
ROOM NO. 11	BUILDING East	EXTENSION 595	

FORM NO. 241
1 FEB 55

REPLACES FORM 36-8
WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)

25X1A

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

This is the memorandum from Stan Grogan that I discussed with you on the "box". You will remember I explained to you that [REDACTED] is working on preparations to refute Soviet charges based on such stories as these and that Mr. Cunningham of my office is working with him, since certain of our activities might also be involved. Would you let me know if the Director wants anything more done about it?

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RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.

18 April 1958
(DATE)

25X1A [REDACTED] 18 Apr 58 [REDACTED]